[Secretary General]

Sir, I lay a copy of the Bill on the Table

**Re. Discussion on tbe working of the Ministry of Defence**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call for Special Mentions, Mr. Defence Minis-ter.will you reply to the debate on the working of the Ministry of Defence tomorrow so that Members can take some time today?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister will reply tomorrow at *2. The Members will have the whole day today for dicussion on Defence. Now we go to Special Mentions.

MR. CHAIRMAN; We shall take up Special Mentions now. Yes, Mr. Kulkarni.

**Reference to the Purchase of Defective Pistols from Czechoslovakia by the Ministery of Home Affairs.**

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Mahara shtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention and through you the attention Of the Minstry of Home Affairs on an item which has appeared in a regional paper of Maharashtra, that is, the "Maharashtra Times" and it was filed by the Delhi Bureau Chief of the "Maharashrta Times". Sir, this is from this newspaper and it seems to be a piece of investigative journalism and not inventive journa lism. I am saying this because during the last two or three weeks. Sir, the atmosphere in the country was such that there were only talks about the Defence purchases, Defence deals, etc. and about the scandals that were coming out. Now, it seem$_s$ that it is the Home Ministry which has purchased the CZ-75 pistols from a C2echoslovakian company costing about. Rs. 21 crores and the quantity i« about 55,000. I am really surprised that when this country is already manufacturing Browning revolvers wfth Belgian collaboration, the Ministry of Home Affairs has made this purchase... *(Interruptions)* ... Friends, you want to say something?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, you are supposed to address the Chair.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Pardon, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are supposed to address the Chair and not the Members behind you.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sorry, Sir, I do not know whether they have g*ot any difficulty. *Interruptipns)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again you are doing the wrong thing. *(Interrup, tions).* You address the Chair.

SHRI A G. KULKARNI: Sir, having sat there on that side for ten years and after having come here. I am assaulted from various sides. I cannot forget the whol$_e$ experience there, Sir. (Interruptions)

Sir, the point that I am making is that we are already manufacturing the Browning revolvers. But the Home Ministry has thought of purchasing these pistols and they have purchased them for the reason that they can shoot sixteen times in one stroke rather than five or six times. But the point is that the tests ware conducted by the expert committee and the committee rejected them. But the Government did not ask manufacturers not to supply, but another 2.500 pistols or revolvers were purchased. Then a further test was con-ducted on the 3rd September last and it was found that they did not work. Now it seems that this has been purchased for the Prime Minister's security and the security of the **VVIPs** and it also appears that th$_e$ bureau attached to the Ministry examined this and they have also found that they are not as per the standards required for this country. Finally, Sir, the National Security Guards also examined them and they also decided that they are not suitable for this country. My point is that since the security of the Prime Minister and of the VIPs is involved, the Home